

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method to represent a project over a network, comprising:
receiving a plurality of requirements for the project from at least
5 one of a first plurality of computers connected to the network;
transmitting the plurality of requirements to at least one of a second
plurality of computers connected to the network;
receiving a plurality of responses to the requirements from at least
one of the second plurality of computers; and
10 receiving at least one link between at least one of the plurality of
responses and at least one of the plurality of requirements from at least one
of the second plurality of computers.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the plurality of
requirements, the plurality of responses, and the at least one link to at least one of the first
15 plurality of computers.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of requirements is organized
as nodes in a first hierarchical tree structure and the plurality of responses is organized as
nodes in a second hierarchical tree structure.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first hierarchical tree structure is
20 defined by at least one of a first plurality of users using at least one of the first plurality of
computers.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second hierarchical tree structure is
defined by at least one of a second plurality of users using at least one of the second
plurality of computers.
- 25 6. The method of claim 4, wherein each of the first plurality of users is
assigned a security level that determines if the user may view, edit, or delete a node and
information included therein.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein each of the first plurality of users is
assigned to at least one node so the user may (1) add, delete, and edit information
30 included in the at least one node, and (2) add, delete, and edit at least one child node to
the at least one node and information included in the at least one child node.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the
responses includes at least one of: a standard, a specification, and a datasheet.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: an input to the at least one of the requirement and the responses, and an output from the at least one of the requirements and the responses.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one subject matter of the at least one of the requirements and the responses.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a security level that determines which users may view the at least one of the requirements and the responses.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes identifications of users that may (1) add, delete, and edit information included in the at least one of the requirements and the responses, and (2) add, delete, and edit at least one child requirement or response to the at least one of the requirements and the responses and information included in the child requirement or response.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: a description of at least one risk, a description of at least one mitigation, and a link between at least one risk and at least one mitigation.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: a labor cost, a material cost, and a duration.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least a description of the requirement.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least a document relevant to the requirement.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a task of the project.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a milestone of the project.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a specification of the project.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the specification includes at least one of: a technical specification, a contract, and a business rule.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of a deliverable item and a procured item for the project.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of computers include the second plurality of computers.

23. A computer storage medium encoded with at least:
a plurality of requirements for the project created by a first party;
5 a plurality of responses to the requirements created by a second party; and
at least one link between at least one of the plurality of responses and at least one of the plurality of requirements created by the second party.

10 24. The medium of claim 23, wherein the plurality of requirements is organized as nodes in a first hierarchical tree structure and the plurality of responses is organized as nodes in a second hierarchical tree structure.

25. The medium of claim 24, wherein the first hierarchical tree structure is defined by the first party.

15 26. The medium of claim 24, wherein the second hierarchical tree structure is defined by the second party.

27. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: an input to the at least one of the requirement and the responses, and an output from the at least one of the requirements and the responses.

20 28. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a security level that determines which users may view, edit, or delete the at least one of the requirements and the responses.

29. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes identifications of users that may (1) add, delete, and edit information
25 included in the at least one of the requirements and the responses, and (2) add, delete, and edit at least one child requirement or response to the at least one of the requirements and the responses and information included the at least child requirement or response.

30. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: a description of at least one risk, a description of at
30 least one mitigation, and a link between at least one risk and at least one mitigation.

31. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a task of the project.

32. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a milestone of the project.

33. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes a specification of the project.

5 34. The medium of claim 33, wherein the specification includes at least one of: a technical specification, a contract, and a business rule.

35. The medium of claim 23, wherein at least one of the requirements and the responses includes at least one of: a deliverable item and a procured item for the project.

10 36. A graphical user interface in a computer for creating a project, the graphical user interface displaying:

a first list including requirements for the project arranged as nodes in a first hierarchical tree structure; and

a second list including responses to the requirements arranged as nodes in a hierarchical tree structure.

15 37. The graphical user interface of claim 36, further comprising a third list including at least one response from the second list linked to at least one requirement from the first list.

38. The graphical user interface of claim 37, further comprising a status of compliance between the third list and the linked at least one requirement.

20 39. The graphical user interface of claim 37, further comprising a description of the at least one response in the third list.

40. The graphical user interface of claim 37, wherein the link between the at least one response and the at least one requirement indicates that the at least one response is directed to meet the at least one requirement.

25 41. The graphical user interface of claim 36, wherein at least one of the requirements and responses is a task, a milestone, a component specification, a deliverable, or a procurement.

42. The graphical user interface of claim 36, further comprising a graphical representation of a link between at least one requirement from the first list and at least one response from the second list linked.

43. The graphical user interface of claim 36, further comprising a security level required for a user to view, edit, or delete one of the requirements and the responses and information therein.

44. The graphical user interface of claim 36, further comprising a user assigned to (1) add, delete, and edit information included in the at least one of the requirements and the responses, and (2) add, delete, and edit at least one child requirement or response to the at least one of the requirements and the responses and
- 5 information included the at least child requirement or response.
45. A method for structuring a project, comprising:
- receiving a selection of an element of a project from a first party;
 - receiving a message concerning the selected element from the first
 - party; and
- 10 saving in a database table a record including (1) the message, (2) an identification of the message as a first key to the record, and (3) an identification of the selected element as a second key to the record.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the first record further includes (1) an identification of another message being responded to, if any, and (2) an identification of a
- 15 second party to receive the message.
47. The method of claim 46, further comprising:
- detecting the presence of the second party; and
 - transmitting a hierarchical tree of the project to the second party,
- 20 wherein the selected element is distinguished by one or more visual cues including underscore, color, and shading.
48. The method of claim 46, further comprising:
- detecting the presence of the second party; and
 - transmitting the message to the second party.
49. The method of claim 48, further comprising loading information related to
- 25 the selected element into memory.
50. The method of claim 48, further comprising sending an email to the second party to notify the receipt of the message.
51. The method of claim 45, further comprising saving in the database table a security level for the selected element that determines which parties may view the
- 30 selected element received from the first party.
52. The method of claim 45, further comprising saving in the database table an identification of an individual that may (1) add, delete, and edit information included in

the selected element, and (2) add, delete, and edit a child element to the selected element and information included in the child element, received from the first party.

53. The method of claim 45, further comprising saving in the database table data contained in a datasheet of an item related to the selected element received from the first party.
54. The method of claim 45, further comprising saving in the database table an identification of a risk received from the first party.
55. The method of claim 54, further comprising saving in the database table an identification of a mitigation received from a second party.
56. The method of claim 55, further comprising saving in the database table a link between the risk and the mitigation.
57. A method for representing a project, comprising:
receiving a selection of an element of a project from a first party;
receiving messages in a conference concerning the selected element
from one or more parties; and
saving in a database table a record including (1) the messages, (2)
an identification of the conference as a first key to the record, and (3) an
identification of the selected element as a second key to the record.
58. The method of claim 57, further comprising:
receiving a selection of the conference by a party;
transmitting a hierarchical tree of the project to the party, wherein
the selected element is distinguished by one or more visual cues including
underscore, color, and shading.
59. The method of claim 58, further comprising transmitting the message to the second party.
60. The method of claim 58, further comprising loading information related to the selected element into memory.
61. The method of claim 57, further comprising saving in the database table a security level for the selected element that determines which parties may view the selected element.
62. The method of claim 57, further comprising saving in the database table an identification of an individual that may (1) add, delete, and edit information included in

the selected element, and (2) add, delete, and edit a child element to the selected element and information included in the child element.

63. The method of claim 57, further comprising saving in the database table data contained in a datasheet of an item related to the selected element.

5 64. The method of claim 57, further comprising saving in the database table an identification of a risk.

65. The method of claim 64, further comprising saving in the database table an identification an identification of a mitigation.

66. The method of claim 65, further comprising saving in the database table a
10 link between the risk and the mitigation.

67. A computer storage medium encoded with at least:

a first field comprising an identification of an element of a project;
a second field comprising an identification of a risk to the element;
a third field comprising an identification of a mitigation to the risk;

15 and

a fourth field comprising a link between the mitigation and the risk.

68. The medium of claim 67, wherein the first record further comprises a
criticality level of the risk.

69. A computer storage medium encoded with at least:

20 a first field comprising an identification of an element of a project;
a second field comprising a security level for viewing the element;
and

25 a third field comprising an identification of an individual that may
(1) add, delete, and edit information included in the element, and (2) add,
delete, and edit a child element to the element and information included in
the child element..

70. The medium of claim 69, further encoded with a fourth field comprising a
level of responsibility of the individual.

71. A computer storage medium encoded with at least:

30 a first field comprising an identification of a message as a first key
to the record;

a second field comprising an identification of an element of a
project as a second key to the record; and

a third field comprising of the message.

72. The medium of claim 71, wherein the message includes a content of an online conference.

73. The medium of claim 71, wherein the message includes emails.

5 74. The medium of claim 71, further comprising a third field of an identification of another message being responded to, if any.

75. The medium of claim 71, further comprising a third field of an identification of a party to receive the message.

10 76. A method comprising receiving from a user a linkage between a response and a requirement, wherein said requirement includes an element of a project to be implemented and said response includes an proposal to implement the requirement.

77. The method of claim 76, further comprising receiving from said user said response.

15 78. The method of claim 76, further comprising receiving from said user said requirement.

79. The method of claim 76, wherein each of said responses and requirement includes a human language description of a vision of said project.

80. The method of claim 76, wherein at least one of said requirement and said response includes at least one of: a labor cost, a material cost, and a duration.

20 81. A graphic user interface including:

a first list of descriptions of risks;

a second list of description of mitigation of at least a group of said risks;

25 a plurality of linkages, each linkage connecting one of said mitigations to one of said risks.

82. The interface of claim 81, wherein said first list is associated with at least one requirement or response in a project.

83. The interface of claim 82, further including a third list of requirements arranged as nodes in a hierarchical tree.